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# REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON OUTDOOR RECREATION



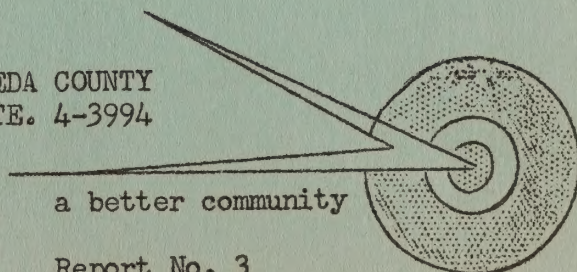
COUNCIL OF SOCIAL PLANNING - ALAMEDA COUNTY  
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a better community

Report No. 3

March 1962







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## OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMISSION

Commission Charge: To develop a general plan for outdoor recreation in Alameda County, with special emphasis on land use and availability of facilities for our growing population.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Commission was officially appointed in June 1961. Regular business meetings began in September; but because of the urgent need for work to begin on the critical issue of preserving open space, members of the Commission took personal responsibility for reviewing reports and for making field trips to wilderness areas in Alameda County during the summer months. A special field trip to Old River, Brushy Peak, and Arroyo del Valle was set up by Mr. Robert Williams, County Planning Director, and Mr. Don Biery, Director of Livermore Recreation and Park District. Seven members of the Commission made this trip.

Information on the outdoor recreation situation in Alameda County has been gathered through written inquiries to official bodies, through agency visits, through attendance at conferences, through interviews, and at one public hearing. The Commission has made full use of its Professional Advisory Committee which numbers among its members some of the outstanding men and women in recreation, city planning and allied fields. The Commission sought the counsel of the Professional Advisory Committee before taking action, and the professionals have been most generous with advice and in giving time to answer questions.

Members of the Commission are convinced that they should not complete the Commission Charge because the essence of the outdoor recreation problem in Alameda County lies not in the absence of a general plan for the orderly development of outdoor recreation facilities and services to meet the real needs of Alameda County's people, but rather lies in the absence of the machinery and structure at county level to bring into effect the operation of any such plan.

Alameda County is one of the few metropolitan counties in California which does not have a county recreation and parks department, nor does it have a county park and outdoor recreation commission. Since twenty-five of the fifty-eight counties have found it helpful to have some kind of recreation or park department at county level, it is strange that such a thriving community as Alameda County should have such an important link missing in its county government structure. It has been assumed by the Board of Supervisors that the existence of the East Bay Regional Park District fulfills the role of a county recreation department; and therefore, the establishment of a county recreation department would bring about a duplication of services, program and taxation. However, members of the Commission have noted, and will document more fully in the body of this report, the fact that the East Bay Regional Park District has not served as a county recreation department, but has rather gone in its own chosen direction with little relation to other recreation programs within the county. It seemed to the Commission, therefore, that its efforts should be concentrated upon defining the real problem in Alameda County and in suggesting a possible solution to this problem. The Commission's report, therefore, will consist of four parts:







## INTRODUCTION (continued)

1. A statement of the recreation responsibilities of various levels of government as set forth in the California Public Outdoor Recreation Plan, commonly referred to as the "Aldrich Report."
2. A statement of the lack of coordination and of the conflicting jurisdictions in Alameda County.
3. A statement of the projects requiring urgent implementation if an orderly plan is to be developed and carried out to meet the needs of the citizens of Alameda County.
4. A suggested solution to the problem.

In summary, in describing the coordinating role of the state, Aldrich says, "It is recognized that each level of government has its own sphere of responsibility, but in certain cases and under certain conditions, the jurisdictional boundary lines become confused and overlapping and the need for inter-agency cooperation and coordination becomes apparent. Units of government must work together harmoniously in order to solve actual intergovernmental problems."

On the subject of county responsibility in the outdoor recreation field, Aldrich says, "To meet the high requirements for recreation facilities, particularly those with already established state lands, a more responsible role. A primary responsibility of county government should be to provide large natural and semi-natural park and recreation areas to serve the dependent recreation needs of its residents."

To assist further in defining roles of responsibility, he goes on to a statement issued by the County Supervisors Association:

"In support of the California Public Outdoor Recreation Plan as authorized by the State Legislature in 1957 and amended November 15, 1960, the County Supervisors Association of California has officially adopted a County Recreation Policy."

The policy is the first state-wide county recreation policy ever adopted in California. The association may be considered a national organization of the outstanding work of a committee of supervisors appointed by the Association from the different geographical areas of the state. The committee was directed by Supervisor E. J. "Tom" Mitchell of Sonoma County, who served as chairman.





## Part I - ROLE OF VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

a) Role of the State - "To satisfy adequately the recreational needs of today and the future, two major roles for the state emerge: 1. It should serve as a principal supplier of recreation areas and facilities in the state, and 2., it should serve as a coordinator of recreation planning so that voids or duplications of services offered by the various federal, state and local agencies do not occur."\*

In respect to its role as supplier of recreation areas and facilities, "The state must assure that areas of statewide significance - areas of natural, scenic, scientific, educational, or historic value - are acquired or reserved. The state must provide large natural or landscaped areas with the major purpose of providing space for active outdoor recreation . . . . . It must provide, or assist local government to provide, day-use facilities where these are not available or are most sorely needed."\*

To continue, in describing the coordinating role of the state, Aldrich says, "It is recognized that each unit of government has its specific area of responsibility; but as population grows and problems magnify, rigid jurisdictional boundary lines become ineffective for planning purposes and the need for inter-agency cooperation and coordination becomes imperative. Units of government must work together harmoniously in order to solve mutual intergovernmental problems."

b) On the subject of county responsibility in the outdoor recreation field, Aldrich says, "To meet the 1980 requirements for recreation, counties, especially those with sizable populations, must assume a more responsible role. A primary responsibility of county government should be to provide large natural and man-made park and recreation areas to serve the day-use recreation needs of its residents."

To assist further in defining roles of responsibility, we quote from a statement issued by the County Supervisors Association:

"In support of the California Public Outdoor Recreation Plan as authorized by the State Legislature in 1957 and completed November 15, 1960, the County Supervisors Association of California did officially adopt a County Recreation Policy."

The policy is the first state-wide county recreation policy ever adopted in California. The accomplishments may be considered a personal accomplishment of the outstanding work of a committee of Supervisors appointed by the Association from the different geographical areas of the state. The committee was directed by Supervisor E. J. "Nin" Guidotti of Sonoma County, who served as chairman.

\* Aldrich Report, Part II - Pages 114-115







## Part I - ROLE OF VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT (continued)

The policy was officially adopted at the annual meeting of the Association recently held at Palm Springs, California. This policy is as follows:

### County Recreation Responsibilities

1. Counties should encourage through planning, consultation, and other services as may be requested by local agencies, the provision of neighborhood and community recreation facilities and activities.
2. Counties should take the initiative to encourage and assist in providing unsatisfied community and neighborhood recreation and park needs, and to correspondingly recommend the means of financing such programming from the area to be served.
3. County government should be the primary supplier of day-use regional recreation facilities within the county, when such facilities are intended for use throughout the county.
4. Counties should investigate the feasibility of utilizing the "user-pay" concept in meeting public demands for recreation.
5. Counties should not offer property tax inducements to private recreation suppliers.
6. When day-use recreation demand crosses county boundaries, voluntary intercounty cooperative agreements are strongly recommended. Legislation designed to force the formation of intercounty regional recreation administrations is both detrimental to home rule and further contributes to the fragmentation of local government.
7. In the event creation of a new unit of government is necessary to the effective and economical solution of regional recreation problems, the responsibility for government and administration rightfully vests in the elected county supervisors therein.

### State, Federal Recreation Responsibilities

8. Counties envision the State's role as a planner and coordinator of recreation to consist of making studies and surveys and long-range plans of recreational facilities; recommending a comprehensive recreational policy for the State; and participating with federal, state, county and local governmental agencies in advance planning with respect to the development and coordination of recreation facilities and programs.
9. Local agencies requesting recreation services for unsatisfied community and neighborhood recreation and park needs should, first, make such requests to the county. In the event of inability to provide said services, the county shall forward the request to the State Division of Recreation. All such requests, should in any event, be restricted to those agencies lacking resources to provide requested services on their own behalf.







State, Federal Recreation Responsibilities (As Counties See Them)

10. When the character of State and Federally operated recreation areas changes to day-use largely by residents of a given county, the State and Federal Governments should give consideration to offering such areas to county governments for operation.
11. The Federal Government has responsibility for the preservation and development of areas that have nation-wide natural or historical values, regardless of their location.
12. The Federal Government should continue its cooperative planning with state and local governments for providing areas and services primarily for persons on overnight or longer trips.
13. All federal landholding agencies should establish general land-use plans, in cooperation with state and local governments, to determine future long-range recreational uses and needs prior to making disposals or establishing irrevocable withdrawals or developments of public lands.

The Association took further action to recommend to Governor E. G. Brown that:

1. In order that coordination and planning for recreation at the state level be effectively achieved, it is recommended that the present Recreation Commission be reconstituted to include the directors of the state departments who have responsibility for recreation and land uses in the broadest senses, representatives of local and Federal governments, and representatives of the general public.
2. On an interim basis, until the Governor and the Legislature can act on the problems of intergovernmental and interagency coordination, it is recommended that the Governor continue the California Public Outdoor Recreation Plan Committee without staff, beyond July 1, 1960, adding to it the state directors of public works and agriculture. Staff functions should be performed by personnel of the committee agencies.\*

Insofar as the Outdoor Recreation Commission could determine, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors is in accord with the statement of the County Supervisors Association.

From the preceding, it is clear that the state has an over-all planning, coordinating role and responsibility for acquisition only of areas which are of state-wide interest on a more than "day-use" basis, while the county, in cooperation with cities and special recreation districts within its boundaries, has responsibility to plan for the recreation needs of all its residents and to acquire the necessary areas to meet their needs. The county also has responsibility to plan with neighboring counties to meet needs which cross county boundaries and to work with other counties in its region to acquire lands to implement intercounty programs.

\* Statement provided by the California State Division of Recreation.







## Part II - LACK OF COORDINATION AND OF CONFLICTING JURISDICTION IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

In Alameda County the pattern of land acquisition and administration for outdoor recreation purposes is complicated and no effective governmental machinery exists to coordinate, plan, and implement programs on a county-wide level. The East Bay Regional Park District has park facilities in many parts of the county, but it does not include in its jurisdiction Murray (Livermore) or Pleasanton Townships. There are eight publicly supported city recreation departments, one park department, and two recreation and park districts set up under sections 5780-5787, Chapter 4, Division 5, Public Resources Code, the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. In addition, there is one state park in the county, Knowland State Arboretum and Park. Federal agencies, such as the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation are not now involved in projects in Alameda County; but there is always the possibility of future participation dependent upon future developments. Other federal agencies, such as the Corps of Engineers are now involved. The Corps of Engineers is actively participating in the Alameda Creek area, in the Crow-Cull Canyon development, and in the San Lorenzo Creek Area. The Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency through the Open Space Land Program has a fifty million dollar program which authorizes Federal Grants to states and local public bodies to assist in the acquisition of permanent open space land to help curb urban sprawl and prevent the spread of urban blight and deterioration. The open space land program is administered by the Urban Renewal Administration through H.H.F.A. Regional Offices. So far, San Leandro is the only city in Alameda County which has applied for funds under this program.

Another Federal Agency, the General Service Administration has been active in helping to turn over the lands formerly used for the Maritime Training Center in Alameda to the new Alameda State Memorial Park.

Over and above the statutory agencies listed previously as operating in the recreation field, there are some 25 voluntary agencies (mostly supported by the United Crusade) offering services in the recreation field. A further list of 51 organizations of sports enthusiasts, such as yachtsmen, rod and gun club members, archers, etc., have an enduring interest in all matters pertaining to outdoor recreation in Alameda County. Despite this panoply of services, no one agency or group does the planning necessary to coordinate program and policy and to take action to keep our vanishing open space for citizen recreation for all time. It is a fact that Alameda County has not been aggressive at state level in park and recreation matters and this has certainly lost for the county some of the funds which might have been used to purchase lands for outdoor recreation. For example:

Under the 1953 program (Chapter 1422) in which there was a half million dollar allocation of state funds available on a matching basis to counties for park and recreation land acquisition programs, Alameda County did not exercise its option to match.







## Part II - LACK OF COORDINATION AND OF CONFLICTING JURISDICTION IN ALAMEDA COUNTY (continued)

Although an attempt was made by the County to acquire the Garin Ranch property under the Tide Land Oil Revenue Act, the land was not actually acquired. This program made available a 20 million dollar Federal rebate on a matching basis, the county to provide 30% of the funds required for a project and the state, 70%. Alameda County did not gain any park or recreation land under this program.

At present, funds for park and recreation programs requiring state help will come from the state general fund. With no concerted voice to speak aggressively for all of the park and recreation interests in the county, there is no reason to suppose that the county will fare better than it did with state aid under the two previous programs.

Once or twice representatives of the cities in Alameda County have appeared to complete at state level, creating a situation which ill serves the county's best interest. Since recreation facilities of any significant size will be used by people outside the immediate community in which these happen to be located, joint planning should be urged upon the agencies, both statutory and voluntary, whose business is to serve the best interests of the people. The present absence of governmental machinery for the planning and coordination in preparing for land acquisition and administration of public outdoor recreation facilities is wasteful, leaves gaps in service, and may cause needless duplication of facilities. Above all, the sizable roadblock to acquisition of wilderness area, while it is still available, presented by the absence of adequate machinery for planning, and carrying out plans is the most serious handicap to the recreation interests of our future generations.

## Part III - Projects Needing Urgent Implementation

1. Arroyo del Valle - The proposed reservoir and Alameda County Sanitarium property - roughly five miles south of Livermore, lying along Arroyo Road and extending approximately eleven miles southeast to the Santa Clara County Line is a beautiful valley with wooded areas, grassy meadows, and a fine stand of native sycamores in the creek area, plus oaks and pines on the higher areas. Adjacent to the reservoir is a 163.8 acre site owned by Alameda County, of which some 50 acres has been leased to Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. The L.A.R.P.D. has developed an 18 acre rural park for family day use and overnight camping. The remainder of the county property includes the buildings and orchard area formerly used by Arroyo del Valle Sanitarium, as well as the 77.4 acre Wetmore Ranch. A report prepared by the County Administrator's Office, with the aid of the County Planning Department, suggests several ideas for the use of the abandoned sanitarium property.

In the opinion of the Outdoor Recreation Commission, the holdings of the county should be considered for possible inclusion in the recreation



Part II - Lack of Coordination and Responsibility in Alabama County (continued)

Although an attempt was made by the County to acquire the property under the 1945 Land Oil Revenue Act, the land was not actually acquired. This program was available a 50 million dollar federal rebate on a matching basis, the county to provide 30% of the funds required for a project and the state, 70%. Alabama County did not gain any park or recreation land under this program.

At present, funds for park and recreation programs requiring state help will come from the state general fund. With no concerted voice to speak assertively for all of the park and recreation interests in the county, there is no reason to suppose that the county will fare better than it did with state aid under the two previous programs.

Once or twice representatives of the cities in Alabama County have appeared to cooperate at state level, creating a situation which serves the county's best interest. Since recreation facilities of any significant size will be used by people outside the immediate community in which they happen to be located, joint planning should be urged upon the agencies, both statutory and voluntary, whose business is to serve the best interests of the people. The present absence of governmental machinery for the planning and coordination in preparing for land acquisition and administration of public outdoor recreation facilities is wasteful, leaves gaps in service, and may cause needless duplication of facilities. Above all, the state's outlook to acquisition of wilderness area, while it is still available, presented by the absence of adequate machinery for planning, and carrying out plans in the most serious handicap to the recreation interests of our future generations.

Part III - Projects Needing Prompt Implementation

1. Arroyo del Valle - The proposed reservoir and Alabama County Sanatorium property - roughly two miles south of Livermore, lying along Arroyo Road and extending approximately eleven miles southeast to the Santa Clara County line is a beautiful valley with wooded areas, grassy meadows, and a fine stand of native oaks in the creek area. Adjacent to the reservoir is a fine oak and pine on the higher areas. Adjacent to the reservoir is a 163.8 acre site owned by Alabama County, of which some 50 acres has been leased to Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. The L.A.R.P.D. has developed an 18 acre rural park for family day use and overnight camping. The remainder of the county property includes the buildings and orchard area formerly used by Arroyo del Valle Sanatorium, as well as the 77.4 acre Watson's Ranch. A report prepared by the County Administrator's Office, with the aid of the County Planning Department, suggests several ideas for the use of the abandoned sanatorium property.

In the opinion of the Outdoor Recreation Commission, the holdings of the county should be considered for possible inclusion in the recreation



### Part III - Projects Needing Urgent Implementation (continued)

complex planned for the adjacent area. According to the State Department of Water Resources, 1960 Progress Report on Recreation Planning for State Water Facilities (page 34), recreation planning for this area, is that, above the proposed dam which will be adjacent to county property, is essentially completed. The del Valle Reservoir would cover a surface area of 715 acres and has a shoreline of 16 miles. An area of 2621 acres will be involved in the total plan. Surveys of terrain, vegetation, road relocations, together with a land use plan and acquisition and development plans have been completed. A tremendous recreation potential exists at this reservoir site, and every effort should be made to implement the plans which have been made.

2. Coyote Hills - Four City Project - The four cities of Hayward, Neward, Union City, and Fremont have joined together to promote the development of a water-oriented community built around the ponding area proposed by the Alameda County Flood Control Board and including excellent facilities for water sports and berthing facilities for small craft. The plan gives promise of a south east bay harbor of generous proportions which will serve as a mecca for yachtmen and others interested in water sports. This project has a high degree of priority since so much of the bayshore potential for recreation has already disappeared; and since silting has denied small boat owners access from Southern Alameda County to open bay waters.

3. Gull Creek and San Lorenzo Creek - The Alameda County Flood Control Board plans reservoirs on Gull Creek and San Lorenzo Creek. Work is to start in 1962 and project completion is scheduled for 1963. East Bay Regional Park District will administer the recreation facilities which are created.

4. Brinker Ranch Property - The East Bay Regional Park District has acquired title to the Brinker Ranch, an area of 2,750 acres and will develop it in addition to Grass Valley Regional Park for overnight camping along with a Nature Area, picnic spots, and a golf course. The foremost problem to early development of this property is the paucity of water supply. There is at present no plan for county-wide citizen participation in the development plan for this wonderful new acquisition of wilderness land.

5. The Garin Ranch - The Garin Ranch property illustrates bluntly the lack of concerted planning and action which has marked Alameda County's approach to its outdoor recreation needs of today and of the future. Although the Garin Ranch properties were never included in the over-all plans developed by the State Department of Parks and Beaches as a potential recreation site, Alameda County on two occasions requested through a bill introduced in the state legislature that state funds be made available to develop a park upon this property. This move was twice vetoed and thus defeated. The Garin Ranch property is located east of State Highway 9 between Hayward



Part III - Projects Requiring Investigation (Continued)

complex planned for the adjacent area, according to the State Department of Water Resources, 1960 Progress Report on Recreation Planning for State Water Facilities (page 34), recreation planning for this area, as that, above the proposed dam which will be adjacent to county property, is essentially completed. The dam, which is to be a concrete dam of 15 miles. An area of 2500 acres will be involved in the total plan. Surveys of terrain, vegetation, road relocation, together with a land use plan and acquisition and development plans have been completed. A preliminary recreation potential exists at this reservoir site, and every effort should be made to implement the plans which have been made.

3. Coyote Hills - Four City Project - The four cities of Hayward, Newark, Union City, and Fremont have joined together to promote the development of a state-oriented community built around the planning area proposed by the Alameda County Flood Control Board and including excellent facilities for water sports and boating facilities for small craft. The plan gives promise of a north east bay harbor of permanent proportions which will serve as a major for yachting and other interested in water sports. This project has a high degree of priority since so much of the bayshore potential for recreation has already disappeared; and since it will have small boat access from downtown Alameda County to open bay waters.

4. Gulf Creek and San Lorenzo Creek - The Alameda County Flood Control Board plans reservoirs on Gulf Creek and San Lorenzo Creek. Work is to start in 1962 and project completion is scheduled for 1965. East Bay Regional Park District will administer the recreation facilities which are created.

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6. The Garin Ranch - The Garin Ranch property illustrates bluntly the lack of concerted planning and action which has marked Alameda County's approach to its outdoor recreation needs of today and of the future. Although the Garin Ranch properties were never included in the over-all plans developed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation as a potential recreation site, Alameda County on two occasions requested through a bill introduced in the state legislature that state funds be made available to develop a park upon this property. This move was twice vetoed and thus defeated. The Garin Ranch property is located east of State Highway 9 between Hayward



and Niles, "and offers an area of 1,450 acres of open hills with a hinterland of wooded draws and creek bottoms." (W. C. Yeoman, Park Use Patterns, 1957) The price of the land in 1957 was \$500 per acre. Some of the land was sold at several times this price and has been lost to park purposes. A small portion of the Garin Property may be purchased by Alameda State College as a nature laboratory.

6. Dry Creek Ranch (Meyers) - In the same general area, Dry Creek Ranch, a 1,000 acre property near Union City, has been offered by Dr. Edith Meyer and her two sisters to East Bay Regional Park District if it can be used for park purposes and not destroyed by a freeway.

7. The Water District Lands - Holdings of East Bay Municipal Water District, San Leandro Water District, and the Sunol Ridge holdings of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission offer excellent opportunities for limited use as public recreation facilities; for example, they could provide scenic drives, be used for fishing and boating, and even camping and picnicing if proper controls were set up for administering them. Policy for permitting such use is not uniform even through the state water resources program has adopted a multiple use policy in regard to its own reservoir projects. Authority for this action comes through AB286, the Masterson Bill. The Stanford Research Institute Report on East Bay Municipal Utility District Lands also advised multiple use for watersheds and other public utility holdings.

8. Alameda County Fair Grounds - Alameda County owns and administers a large county fair site which has high recreation potential for the people who live in the south-east part of the county, as well as for county-wide and regional use. At present, the bulk of the fair ground usage takes place during the summer when the county fair program is run. This use is largely commercial with the Pleasanton races and fair ground exhibits. However, during the remainder of the year, some groups and individual families do request and obtain permission to hold picnics and barbeques on the fair grounds. In order to develop the recreation potential of the fair ground property, it would be necessary to do a good job of landscape development, provide swimming facilities, and make available the picnic and barbeque facilities already in existence. It is possible that a portion of the extensive parking area could be given over to football pitches and baseball diamonds. The two exposition buildings already in existence at the site could be used for cultural events, such as art exhibits and concerts. It might be possible to follow the plan which Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has used in Arroyo del Valle. Here the county has leased part of its property to Livermore for operation and Livermore Recreation and Park District has done an admirable job of enlisting citizen groups in developing the leased acreage for family recreation purposes. In regard to the fair grounds, the policy that should be followed is de-emphasis of commercial recreation and emphasis of public and voluntary nonprofit recreation programs.







### Long Range, Less Urgent Projects Requiring Attention

1. Old River - A unique possibility for a water gateway to the Sacramento, San Joaquin 1,500 mile stretch of waterways could be developed at Old River. At present, some 50 to 60 private owners have small holdings used for weekend and summer vacations on the tributary terminus which reaches a fraction of a mile into Alameda County. Since a new freeway which would come within three miles of this area is planned, the water gateway would offer an opportunity for Alameda County residents to enter and explore our rich waterways heritage.

2. Tesla Geological and Historical Area - This again is a unique area offering fossil deposits and strange geological formations and an area of unspoiled natural California scenery which should be preserved intact for future generations. At present, it is used for atomic energy testing and is barred to the public, but the fluidity of atomic programs could release this land, and citizens should be aware of its recreation potential.

3. Doolan Canyon - This area off Highway 50, north of Livermore and Pleasanton, has been projected for reservoir development by the State Department of Water Resources. The recreation potential and planning is only in preliminary stages. It would require extensive landscaping and afforestation to develop the area, but it does offer a challenge for the future.







## CONCLUSIONS

1. A multiplicity of agencies, both statutory and voluntary are working in the field of outdoor recreation in Alameda County. Because there is no over-all joint planning, and no over-all authority for carrying out plans, progress towards the orderly development of services sorely needed by the people of our county and of surrounding counties is largely ineffective.
2. There are areas of rich recreation potential within Alameda County which may be lost forever if some machinery for taking urgent and immediate action to plan and to implement plans is not developed.
3. Large numbers of professionals from several different disciplines as well as members of over fifty sports clubs and a variety of youth groups are interested in the broad field of outdoor recreation, but the absence of a county-wide responsible entity through which to work has brought about inertia where otherwise there might have been generous and enthusiastic citizen support.
4. There has been inadequate and uncoordinated representation of Alameda County's needs at state level in the field of outdoor recreation which has lost for the county some funds for the development of its rich park potential.







## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Outdoor Recreation Commission of the Council of Social Planning therefore advises the Board of Directors of the Council that an approach be made to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors with the following recommendations:

I - That the Board of Supervisors appoint a citizens advisory commission under the chairmanship of a member of the Board of Supervisors, and similar to the Highway Advisory Commission\* which has such a splendid record of achievement on behalf of the citizens of Alameda County.

II - That the Board of Supervisors in order to fulfill the goals outlined and bring about development of the outdoor recreation projects described in this report, as well as to accomplish the functions listed below in Roman Numeral III, direct the citizen's advisory commission on outdoor recreation as its first task to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the kind of recreation and park structure needed at county level.

Several kinds of structure at county level to do the job needed for outdoor recreation should be investigated:

- 1) Use of East Bay Regional Park District
- 2) Establishment of a county park and outdoor recreation department
- 3) Establishment of a county park and Outdoor Recreation Commission
- 4) Use of Alameda County Flood Control District
- 5) Combination of above, or other.

\* The Highway Advisory Commission is composed of representatives of Chambers of Commerce, Mayors, City Managers, City Engineers from all parts of the County, as well as representatives of County agencies concerned with highways; therefore, both incorporated and unincorporated areas, and lay and professional groups are represented. The Highway Advisory Commission reviews highway development plans throughout the county and sets priorities for action. Alameda County's presentation to the state is based upon the priority scheme agreed upon by the Highway Advisory Commission.







III - Pending the establishment of an appropriate county-wide structure by the Board of Supervisors, the citizens advisory commission would do for the field of outdoor recreation the following:

- a. Act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors to forward the implementation of the outdoor recreation projects described in this report as needing either urgent development or recommended as long-term goals.
- b. Act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors on all matters pertaining to the outdoor recreation and park needs of the county as a whole.
- c. Assist all recreation departments, park departments, and special recreation and park districts to improve and extend their service in all areas of the county.
- d. Coordinate citizen interest in the program and services of agencies, both tax-supported and voluntary, in the outdoor recreation field.
- e. Assist the Board to present a unified front at state level and at regional level in representing the interest of the citizens of Alameda County in matters pertaining to outdoor recreation and parks. It is suggested that both lay and professional representation be included and that these persons officially present the united policy of Alameda County before state and regional bodies.

IV - That when the appropriate county-wide structure has been established by the Board of Supervisors and is operating, that the citizens advisory commission will be modified or dismissed as becomes appropriate with the new structure.

The Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission of the Federal Government, after three years of study, said in its 230 page report that coordinated federal, state, and local action is necessary to develop the Nation's recreation facilities. The Commission's Chairman, Laurence S. Rockefeller, head of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, said that a major aim of the Commission's recommendations was "to bring the people closer to a recreational environment in the areas where they live." One way to do this, the report said, would be to make better use of open lands around big cities.

It is timely that Alameda County should be pursuing an inquiry into outdoor recreation facilities and programs at the same moment in which the Federal Government is reporting on the same problem. The Outdoor Recreation Commission of the Council of Social Planning urges immediate implementation of the recommendations in the foregoing report and respectfully submits this report to the Board of Directors of the Council of Social Planning.







COUNTIES WHICH HAVE COUNTY RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENTS OR COUNTY  
PARK DEPARTMENTS\*

| <u>COUNTY</u>                   | <u>RECREATION &amp; PARK</u> | <u>PARK</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Contra Costa                    |                              | X           |
| Del Norte                       | X                            |             |
| El Dorado                       |                              | X           |
| Fresno                          | X                            |             |
| Kern                            | X                            |             |
| King                            |                              | X           |
| Los Angeles                     | X                            |             |
| Madera                          |                              | X           |
| Mariposa                        | X                            |             |
| Merced                          | X                            |             |
| Mono                            | X                            |             |
| Napa (Lake Baring Park Com.)    |                              | X           |
| Orange                          |                              | X           |
| River                           |                              | X           |
| Sacramento                      |                              | X           |
| San Diego                       | X                            |             |
| San Luis Obispo                 |                              | X           |
| San Mateo                       | X                            |             |
| Santa Barbara                   |                              | X           |
| Santa Clara                     | X                            |             |
| Tuolumne                        | X (recreation only)          |             |
| Stanislaus                      | X                            |             |
| Tulare                          |                              | X           |
| Ventura                         |                              | X           |
| San Francisco (city and county) | X                            |             |

\* Park and Recreation Directory, November 1961







## APPENDIX

### CITY OF PLEASANTON

#### Proposed Goals - Expanded General Plan

October 19, 1961

1. That all area within the Pleasanton Planning Area should remain in present use until such time as the area is annexed by the City, and that the zoning be upgraded in conjunction with annexation and development proceedings.
2. That in open-spaces areas, the Commission reserves the right to designate Park and School sites.
3. That consideration be given to installation of walkways within the City and that areas for bridle paths be reserved in the hilly areas.
4. That it is a policy of the City to declare intent to zone for gravel pit areas and to actively reclaim abandoned gravel pits for recreational or other purposes; i.e., swimming, boating, and picnic areas.
5. The character of the City should be primarily residential.
6. Industrial development should emphasize the attraction of light industry, which will provide the balanced tax base necessary to provide needed services and capital improvements.
7. Redevelopment of the central business district must be accomplished in order to maintain it as a nucleus for an expanded central business area.
8. The future expansion of the Fairgrounds area, primarily for parking purposes, should be to the west and north of Bernal Avenue.
9. The traffic circulation plan should provide two entrances and exits from the Fairgrounds onto Bernal Avenue and should provide a connection between Bernal Avenue and Hopyard Road in the area west of the present facilities.
10. Development of the Fairgrounds as a year-around recreation facility should be encouraged.
11. Development of major commercial activities not directly associated with the holding of the County Fair should be discouraged.
12. Effort should be put forth by the City to lease certain open, turfed fields from the County Fairgrounds for use as municipal recreation areas.







COUNCIL OF SOCIAL PLANNING - ALAMEDA COUNTY  
337 - 13 St., Oakland 12 TE. 4-3994

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